



Luis R. Garcia, Jr.

Florida House of Representatives, District 107

Ranking Member, Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council; Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight; State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee

January 11, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a retired Fire Chief, former City of Miami Beach Commissioner and currently serving the citizens of Florida as a State Representative in House District 107, I have committed my life to engaging in local, state and federal issues that affect the communities I serve. My commitment is to insure my constituents and in fact all Floridians have every resource at their disposal to help them remain competitive in this ever increasing fast paced world in which we live. This means access to Broadband technology.

With this in mind, I wanted to state my concern regarding the Commission's Open Internet NPRM. While I acknowledge the Commission's efforts in crafting a National Broadband Plan, my concerns relate to imposing net neutrality regulations that would create an environment of uncertainty.

Access to broadband technology is an issue that affects my constituents and our state. This technology offers communities like mine innumerable benefits including: increased access to healthcare tools, expanded educational opportunities, skill-training programs for the unemployed and can even increase the efficiency of local and state government operations.

As a Hispanic and representing a predominately Hispanic District, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that technology can have on these communities. Hispanics are the

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largest minority group in the United States, but have historically lagged behind other populations in broadband adoption. However, this trend has decreased in recent years.

According to the Pew Center, in 2009, 68% of English-speaking Hispanics have a broadband connection in the home. Additionally, Hispanics comprise a large percentage of small business ownership and according to the U.S Census Bureau; Hispanics start businesses at three times the national rate. Considering that roughly 40% of Hispanics are foreign-born this is a remarkable statistic. Broadband has helped to make all of this possible, and it is easy to understand why the Commission wants to extend its benefits to all Americans. Hispanics are also leading in the use of mobile Broadband services. While this represents progress in bridging the digital divide, the goal to have Broadband available to all Americans will still require much more work to accomplish.

As a policy maker, I recognize the enormous impact that this issue will have on the future of America. I urge the Commission to focus on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan before applying rules that could detract from the Plan's intended goal. We will establish a strong foundation for future American innovation and our communities' success by insuring all communities have access to broadband.

Best regards,



Luis R. Garcia, Jr.
Florida State Representative, District 107

CC: File